

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND INDUSTRY SERVICES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH STANDARDS—ETHYLENE OXIDE

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(By authority conferred upon the director of the department of consumer and industry services by section 24 of 1974 PA 154, MCL 408.1024, and Executive Reorganization Order Nos. 1996-1 and 1996-2, MCL 330.3101 and 445.2001)

R 325.51152, R 325.51162, R 325.51163, and R 325.51177 of the Michigan Administrative Code are amended as follows:

PART 304. ETHYLENE OXIDE

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R 325.51151 Scope and application.

Rule 1. (1) These rules apply to all occupational exposures to ethylene oxide (EtO), chemical abstracts service registry no. 75-21-8, except that these rules do not apply to the processing, use, and handling of products that contain EtO if objective data are reasonably relied upon to demonstrate that the product is not capable of releasing EtO in airborne concentrations at or above the action level and that it cannot reasonably be foreseen that the product will release EtO in excess of the short-term exposure limit (STEL) under the expected conditions of processing, use, and handling that will cause the greatest possible release.

(2) An employer who relies on the product exemption of this rule shall maintain records of the objective data supporting that exemption and of the basis of the employer's reliance on the data, as provided in R 325.51171.

R 325.51152 Definitions.

Rule 2. (1) As used in these rules:

(a) "Act" means Act No. 154 of the Public Acts of 1974, as amended, being ?408.1001 et seq. of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(b) "Action level" means a concentration of EtO of 0.5 parts EtO per million parts of air (0.5 ppm) calculated as an 8-hour, time-weighted average.

(c) "Authorized person" means any person specifically authorized by the employer whose duties require the person to enter a regulated area, any person entering such an area as a designated representative of employees for the purpose of exercising the right to observe monitoring procedures under R 325.51176, or any other person authorized by the act.

(d) "Director" means the director of the Michigan department of consumer and industry services or his or her designee.

(e) "Emergency" means any occurrence which is likely to or does result in an unexpected release of ethylene oxide, such as equipment failure, rupture of containers, or failure of control equipment.

(f) "Employee exposure" means exposure to airborne EtO which would occur if the employee were not using respiratory protective equipment.

(g) "Ethylene oxide" or "EtO" means a 3-membered ring organic compound, chemical formula C₂H₄O.

(h) "O.H. rule" means an occupational health rule adopted by reference pursuant to section 14 of the act or promulgated pursuant to section 24 of the act. Copies of these rules are available from the Michigan department of consumer and industry services.

R 325.51153 Airborne concentrations; permissible employee exposure limits.

Rule 3. (1) An employer shall ensure that an employee is not exposed to an airborne concentration of EtO of more than 1 part EtO per million parts of air (1 ppm) as an 8-hour, time-weighted average (TWA).

(2) An employer shall ensure that an employee is not exposed to an airborne short-term exposure limit (STEL) concentration of EtO of more than 5 ppm as averaged over any 15-minute period during the working day.

R 325.51154 Exposure monitoring generally.

Rule 4. (1) Determinations of employee exposure shall be made from breathing zone air samples that are representative of the 8-hour TWA and 15-minute STEL of each employee.

(2) Representative 8-hour TWA employee exposures shall be determined on the basis of 1 or more samples that represent full-shift exposure for each shift for each job classification in each work area. Representative 15-minute short-term employee exposures shall be determined on the basis of 1 or more samples that represent 15-minute exposures associated with operations that are most likely to produce exposures above the excursion limit for each shift for each job classification in each work area.

(3) If an employer can document that exposure levels are equivalent for similar operations in different work shifts, the employer need only determine representative employee exposure for that operation during 1 shift.

R 325.51155 Exposure monitoring; initial determination.

Rule 5. (1) An employer who has a workplace or work operation that is subject to these rules shall perform initial monitoring to accurately determine the TWA and STEL airborne concentrations of EtO to which an employee may be exposed.

(2) Any measurements of airborne EtO concentrations that are determined after June 15, 1983, may be used to satisfy the requirement to monitor specified in subrule (1) of this rule, if the sampling and analytical methods that are used meet the accuracy and confidence levels required by R 325.51157.

(3) If an employer has previously monitored for the STEL by sampling and analytic methods that meet the accuracy and confidence levels of R 325.51157, the employer may rely on the monitoring results to satisfy the requirements of subrule (1) of this rule.

R 325.51156 Exposure monitoring; frequency.

Rule 6. (1) If an initial determination or subsequent monitoring reveals employee exposure to be at or above the action level, but below the permissible employee exposure limits, an employer shall repeat monitoring in accordance with this rule, R 325.51154, R 325.51155, R 325.51157, and R 325.51158 at least every 6 months. The employer shall continue monitoring at the required frequency until not less than 2 consecutive measurements, taken not less than 7 days apart, are below the action level, at which time the employer may discontinue monitoring for that employee, except as provided pursuant to subrule (3) of this rule.

(2) If initial monitoring reveals that employee exposure is above the TWA or the STEL, an employer shall repeat monitoring at least quarterly. The employer shall continue monitoring at the required frequency until not less than 2 consecutive measurements, taken not less than 7 days apart, are at or below the TWA and STEL. At that time, the employer shall

repeat monitoring for that employee at the frequency prescribed by subrule (1) of this rule, except as otherwise provided pursuant to subrule (3) of this rule.

(3) If there has been a production, process, control, personnel, or work practice change which might result in new or additional employee exposure to EtO, or if an employer has any other reason to suspect a change which might result in new or additional exposures to EtO, additional monitoring pursuant to this rule and R 325.51154, R 325.51155, R 325.51157, and R 325.51158 shall be conducted.

R 325.51157 Exposure monitoring; accuracy of measurement.

Rule 7. An employer shall use a method of monitoring which is accurate, to a confidence level of 95%, to within plus or minus 25% for airborne concentrations of EtO at the 1 ppm TWA, to within plus or minus 35% for airborne concentrations of EtO at the action level of 0.5 ppm, and to within plus or minus 35% for airborne concentrations of EtO at the 5 ppm STEL.

R 325.51158 Employee notification of monitoring results.

Rule 8. (1) Within 15 working days after the receipt of monitoring results, an employer shall notify each employee of the results, in writing, either individually or by posting the results in an appropriate location that is accessible to affected employees.

(2) If the monitoring results indicate that employee exposure, without regard to respirators, exceeds 1 or both of the permissible employee exposure limits, an employer shall include, in the written notice required by subrule (1) of this rule, a statement that the permissible employee exposure limit was exceeded and a description of the corrective action taken or to be taken to reduce exposure to or below the permissible employee exposure limit.

R 325.51159 Regulated areas.

Rule 9. (1) An employer shall establish a regulated area wherever employee exposure to airborne concentrations of EtO may exceed either of the permissible employee exposure limits specified in R 325.51153.

(2) Access to regulated areas shall be restricted to authorized persons.

(3) A regulated area shall be demarcated in any manner that minimizes the number of employees within the regulated area.

R 325.51160 Methods of compliance; engineering controls and work practices.

Rule 10. (1) An employer shall institute engineering and work practice controls to reduce and maintain employee exposures to EtO to or below the permissible exposure limits, except to the extent that such controls are not feasible.

(2) If the engineering and work practice controls that can be instituted are not sufficient to reduce employee exposures to or below the permissible exposure limits, an employer shall nonetheless use them to reduce exposures to the lowest levels achievable by these controls and shall supplement the controls by the use of respiratory protection which complies with the requirements of R 325.51162.

(3) Engineering controls are generally infeasible for the following operations:

- (a) Collection of quality assurance sampling from sterilized materials.
- (b) Removal of biological indicators from sterilized materials.
- (c) Loading and unloading of tank cars.
- (d) Changing of ethylene oxide tanks on sterilizers.
- (e) Vessel cleaning.

(4) Engineering controls are required for operations in subrule (3) of this rule where the director demonstrates that such controls are feasible.

(5) Employee job rotation shall not be used as a means of compliance with the permissible exposure limits.

R 325.51161 Methods of compliance; written compliance program.

Rule 11. (1) If the TWA or STEL exposure limits are exceeded, an employer shall establish and implement a written compliance program to reduce and maintain employee exposures at or below the permissible employee exposure limits prescribed by R 325.51153(1) and (2) solely by means of engineering and work practice controls pursuant to R 325.51160 and by the use of respiratory protection where required or permitted by R 325.51162.

(2) The written compliance program shall, at a minimum, include both of the following:

(a) A schedule for periodic leak detection surveys.

(b) A written plan for emergency situations pursuant to R 325.51164.

(3) Written compliance programs shall be submitted, upon request, to the director and shall be available at the workplace for examination and copying by the director, an affected employee, or an authorized employee representative.

(4) A written compliance program shall be reviewed and updated at least once every 12 months to reflect the current status of the compliance program.

R 325.51162 Respirators; selection; respiratory protection program .

Rule 12. (1) For employees who use respirators required by these rules, the employer shall provide respirators that comply with the requirements of these rules. Respirators must be used during all of the following:

(a) Periods necessary to install or implement feasible engineering and work practice controls.

(b) Work operations, such as maintenance and repair activities and vessel cleaning for which engineering and work practice controls are not feasible.

(c) Work operations for which feasible engineering and work practice controls are not yet sufficient to reduce an employee's exposure to or below the TWA.

(d) Emergencies.

(2) The employer shall select the appropriate respirator from Table 1.

TABLE 1—MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION FOR AIRBORNE ETHYLENE OXIDE

Condition of use or concentration of airborne EtO (ppm)	Minimum Required Respirator
Equal to or less than 50	Full facepiece respirator with EtO approved canister, front- or back-mounted.
Equal to or less than 2,000	(a) Positive-pressure, supplied-air respirator equipped with full facepiece, hood, or helmet, or (b) Continuous-flow, supplied-air respirator (positive-pressure) equipped with hood, helmet, or suit.
Concentration above 2,000 or unknown concentration (such as in emergencies).	(a) Positive-pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipped with full facepiece, or (b) Positive-pressure, full facepiece, supplied-air respirator equipped with auxiliary positive-pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus.
Firefighting	Positive-pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus equipped with full facepiece.
Escape	Any respirator described in this table.

Note: Respirators approved for use in higher concentrations are permitted to be used in lower concentrations.

(3) The employer must implement a respiratory protection program in accordance with 29 CFR §1910.134 (b) to (d), and (f) to (m), except for (d)(1)(iii), as adopted by reference in R 325.60051, et seq.

R 325.51163 Protective clothing and equipment.

Rule 13. If it is possible that employees could have eye or skin contact with EtO or EtO solutions, then the employer must select and provide, at no cost to the employee, appropriate protective clothing or other equipment in accordance with occupational health rule R 325.6001 et seq. To protect any area of the employee's body that may come in contact with the EtO or EtO solution, and must ensure that the employee wears the protective clothing and equipment provided.

R 325.51164 Emergency situations; written plans; alerting employees.

Rule 14. (1) A written plan for emergency situations shall be developed for each workplace where EtO is used.

Appropriate portions of the plan shall be implemented in the event of an emergency.

(2) The plan shall specifically provide that an employee who is engaged in correcting emergency conditions shall be equipped with respiratory protection as required in R 325.51162 until the emergency has abated.

(3) The plan shall include the elements prescribed in the provisions of 29 C.F.R. §1910.38, entitled "Employee emergency plans and fire prevention plans."

(4) Where there is the possibility of employee exposure to EtO due to an emergency, means shall be developed and used to promptly alert potentially affected employees of such occurrences.

(5) Affected employees who are not engaged in correcting the emergency shall be immediately evacuated from the area and shall not be permitted to return until the emergency has abated.

R 325.51165 General medical surveillance.

Rule 15. (1) An employer shall institute a medical surveillance program for each employee who is or may be exposed to concentrations of EtO at or above the action level or short-term exposure limit, without regard to the use of respirators, for at least 30 days a year.

(2) An employer shall make available medical examinations and consultations to all employees who have been exposed to EtO in an emergency situation.

(3) The employer shall ensure that all medical examinations and procedures are performed by, or under the supervision of, a licensed physician.

(4) An employer shall ensure that the required medical surveillance is provided without cost to employees, without loss of pay, and at a reasonable time and place.

R 325.51166 Medical examinations and consultation; frequency and content.

Rule 16. (1) An employer shall make medical examinations and consultations available to each employee covered in R 325.51165 as follows:

(a) Before assignment to a work area where exposure may be at or above the action level or short-term exposure limit for at least 30 days a year.

(b) At least annually.

(c) At termination or reassignment to an area where exposure to EtO is not at or above the action level or short-term exposure limit for at least 30 days a year.

(d) As medically appropriate for any employee exposed in an emergency.

(e) As soon as possible after notification by an employee that the employee has developed signs or symptoms indicating possible overexposure to EtO or that the employee desires medical advice concerning the effects of current or past exposure to EtO on the employee's ability to produce a healthy child.

(f) An employer shall provide additional medical examinations to affected employees at the frequency recommended by the examining physician.

(2) Medical examinations made available pursuant to subrule (1) of this rule shall include all of the following:

(a) A medical and work history, with emphasis given to eyes, skin, and pulmonary, hematologic, neurologic, and reproductive systems.

(b) A physical examination with emphasis given to eyes, skin, and pulmonary, hematologic, neurologic, and reproductive systems.

(c) A complete blood count, including at least a white cell count with differential, red cell count, hematocrit, and hemoglobin.

(d) Additional tests which, in the opinion of the examining physician, are appropriate.

(e) Pregnancy testing or laboratory evaluation of fertility shall be provided if requested by the employee and deemed appropriate by the physician.

R 325.51167 Medical surveillance program; information provided to the physician by employer.

Rule 17. (1) An employer shall provide all of the following information to the examining physician:

(a) A copy of these rules and related appendices which may be obtained from the department of public health.

(b) A description of an affected employee's duties as they relate to the employee's exposure.

(c) The employee's representative or anticipated exposure level.

(d) A description of any personal protective equipment used or to be used.

(e) Information from previous medical examinations of the affected employee which is not otherwise available to the examining physician.

R 325.51168 Medical surveillance program; physician's written opinion.

Rule 18. (1) An employer shall obtain a written opinion from the examining physician, which shall include all of the following information:

(a) The results of the medical examination and tests performed.

(b) The physician's opinion as to whether an employee has any detected medical condition or conditions which would subject the employee to an increased risk of material health impairment from exposure to EtO.

(c) Any recommended limitations on the employee or upon the use of personal protective equipment, such as clothing or respirators.

(d) A statement that the employee has been informed by the physician of the results of the medical examination and any medical conditions resulting from EtO exposure that require further examination or treatment.

(2) An employer shall instruct the physician not to reveal specific findings or diagnoses unrelated to occupational exposure to EtO in the written opinion.

(3) Within 15 days of receipt, an employer shall provide a copy of the written opinion to the affected employee.

R 325.51169 Signs and labeling.

Rule 19. (1) An employer shall post the following warning sign in each regulated area and entrances or access ways to regulated areas:

DANGER
ETHYLENE OXIDE
CANCER HAZARD AND REPRODUCTIVE HAZARD
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
RESPIRATORS AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING MAY BE
REQUIRED TO BE WORN IN THIS AREA

(2) An employer shall assure that signs required by this rule are illuminated and cleaned as necessary to remain legible.

(3) An employer shall assure that precautionary labels are affixed to EtO containers and remain affixed when the containers are removed from the workplace. Reaction vessels, storage tanks, and pipes or piping systems are not considered containers.

(4) Labels shall comply with the provisions of 29 C.F.R. §1910.1200(f) and shall include both of the following statements:

(a)
DANGER
CONTAINS ETHYLENE OXIDE
CANCER HAZARD AND REPRODUCTIVE HAZARD

(b) A statement warning against breathing airborne concentrations of EtO.

(5) The labeling requirements in subrules (1) to (4) of this rule do not apply where EtO is used as a pesticide, as such term is defined in the federal insecticide, fungicide, and rodenticide act, 7 U.S.C. 136 et seq., when it is labeled pursuant to that act and regulations issued under the act by the environmental protection agency.

(6) Manufacturers and importers of EtO shall develop material safety data sheets as specified in the provisions of 29 C.F.R. 1910.1200(g).

R 325.51170 Employee information and training.

Rule 20. (1) An employer who has a workplace in which there is a potential exposure to airborne EtO at or above the action level or above the STEL shall provide employees with information and training on EtO at the time of initial assignment and at least annually for each employee.

(2) An employer shall ensure that each employee is informed of all of the following:

(a) The location, availability, and contents of these rules and appendices A and B to these rules.

(b) The specific nature of any operations in the employee's work area where EtO is present.

(c) The purpose and description of the medical surveillance program required in R 325.51165 to R 325.51168 and an explanation of the information in appendix C to these rules.

(3) An employer shall institute a training program that shall include all of the following areas:

(a) Methods and observations that may be used to detect the presence or release of EtO in the work area.

(b) The physical and health hazards of EtO.

(c) The engineering controls, work practices, personal protective equipment, and emergency procedures used to protect employees.

(d) The details of the hazard communication program developed by the employer, including an explanation of the labeling system and how employees can obtain and use appropriate hazard information.

R 325.51171 Recordkeeping; objective data for exempted operations.

Rule 21. (1) If the processing, use, and handling of products made from or containing EtO are exempted pursuant to R 325.51151, or where objective data have been relied on instead of initial monitoring pursuant to R 325.51155(2), an employer shall establish and maintain an accurate record of the objective data reasonably relied upon in support of the exemption, which shall include all of the following information:

(a) The product qualifying for exemption.

(b) The source of the objective data.

(c) The testing protocol and the results of the testing or an analysis of the material, or both, for the release of EtO.

(d) A description of the operation exempted and how the data supports the exemption.

(e) Other data relevant to the operations, materials, processing, or employee exposures covered by the exemption.

(2) An employer shall maintain the record specified in subrule (1) of this rule for the duration of the employer's reliance upon such objective data.

R 325.51172 Monitoring of exposure; records; maintenance.

Rule 22. (1) An employer shall establish and maintain an accurate record of all monitoring required by R 325.51154 to R 325.51156. The exposure monitoring record shall include all of the following information:

(a) The dates, number, duration, and results of each of the samples taken, including a description of the sampling plan used to determine representative employee exposure.

(b) The operation involving exposure to EtO that is being monitored.

(c) A description of the sampling and analytical methods used and the data relied upon to establish that the methods used meet the accuracy and precision requirements of R 325.51157.

(d) Type of protective devices worn, if any.

(e) Name, social security number, and job classification of the employee being monitored and of all other employees whose exposure the measurement is intended to represent.

(2) An employer shall maintain the record specified in subrule (1) of this rule for not less than 30 years in accordance with the provisions of R 325.3451 et seq.

R 325.51173 Medical surveillance records; maintenance.

Rule 23. (1) An employer shall establish and maintain an accurate record for each employee subject to medical surveillance as required by R 325.51165. The medical surveillance record shall include all of the following information:

(a) The name and social security number of the employee.

(b) A copy of the physician's written opinions.

(c) Any employee medical complaints related to exposure to EtO.

(d) A copy of the information provided to the physician as required by R 325.51167.

(2) An employer shall ensure the record is maintained for the duration of employment plus 30 years in accordance with the provisions of R 325.3451 et seq.

R 325.51174 Availability of records.

Rule 24. (1) Upon written request, an employer shall make all records that are required to be maintained by these rules available to the director for examination and copying.

(2) Upon request, an employer shall make records that are required to be maintained by R 325.51171, R 325.51172, and R 325.51173 available to affected employees, former employees, and designated representatives for examination and copying in accordance with the provisions of R 325.3451 et seq.

(3) An employer shall make records that are required to be maintained by R 325.51173 available for examination and copying to anyone who has the specific written consent of the affected employee or former employee.

R 325.51175 Retention and disposal of records; successor employer; transmittal and notice to director.

Rule 25. (1) If an employer ceases to do business, the successor employer shall receive and retain all records that are required to be maintained by these rules for the prescribed period.

(2) If an employer ceases to do business and there is no successor employer to receive and retain the records for the prescribed period, these records shall be transmitted to the director.

(3) At the expiration of the retention period for the records that are required to be maintained pursuant to these rules, an employer shall notify the director not less than 3 months before the disposal of the records and shall transmit the records to the director upon request.

R 325.51176 Exposure monitoring; employee observation.

Rule 26. (1) An employer shall provide affected employees or their designated representatives an opportunity to observe any monitoring of employee exposure to EtO which is conducted pursuant to R 325.51154 to R 325.51156.

(2) When observation of the monitoring of employee exposure to EtO requires entry into an area where the use of protective clothing or equipment is required, the observer shall be provided with and be required to use such clothing and equipment and shall comply with all other applicable safety and health procedures.

R 325.51177 Availability of rules and appendices; permission to reproduce.

Rule 27. (1) Appendices A to D to these rules are informational and are not intended to create any additional obligations not otherwise imposed or to detract from any existing obligations. Copies of these rules and related appendices entitled "Appendix A—Substance Safety Data Sheet for Ethylene Oxide"; "Appendix B—Substance Technical Information for Ethylene Oxide"; "Appendix C—Medical Surveillance Information for Ethylene Oxide"; and "Appendix D—Sampling and Analytical Methods for Ethylene Oxide" are available to affected employers and employees at no cost from the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, Standards Division, 7150 Harris Drive, P.O. Box 30643, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

(2) Permission to reproduce any of the documents specified in subrule (1) of this rule in full is granted by the director.

APPENDICES TO MIOSHA STANDARD FOR ETHYLENE OXIDE (EtO) (R 325.51151 - R 325.51177)

Appendix A - Substance Safety Data Sheet for Ethylene Oxide

I. Substance Identification

A. Substance: Ethylene oxide (C₂H₄O).

B. Synonyms: dihydrooxirene, dimethylene oxide, EO, 1,2-epoxyethane, EtO, ETO, oxacyclopropane, oxane, oxidoethane, alpha/beta-oxidoethane, oxiran, oxirane.

C. Ethylene oxide can be found as a liquid or vapor.

D. EtO is used in the manufacture of ethylene glycol surfactants, ethanolamines, glycol ethers and other organic chemicals. EtO is also used as a sterilant and fumigant.

E. Appearance and odor: Colorless liquid below 10.7°C (51.3°F) or colorless gas with ether-like odor detected at approximately 700 parts EtO per million parts of air (700 ppm).

F. Permissible exposure: Exposure may not exceed 1 part EtO per million part of air averaged over the 8-hour work day, nor may short-term exposure exceed 5 parts of EtO per million parts of air averaged over a 15 minute period.

II. Health Hazard Data

A. Ethylene oxide can cause bodily harm if you inhale the vapor, if it comes into contact with your eyes or skin, or if you swallow it.

B. Effects of overexposure:

1. Ethylene oxide in liquid form can cause eye irritation and injury to the cornea, frostbite, and severe irritation and blistering of the skin upon prolonged or confined contact. Ingestion of EtO can cause gastric irritation and liver injury. Acute effects from inhalation of EtO vapors include respiratory irritation and lung injury, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath, and cyanosis (blue or purple coloring of skin). Exposure has also been associated with the occurrence of cancer, reproductive effects, mutagenic changes, neurotoxicity, and sensitization.

2. EtO has been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals and has been associated with higher incidences of cancer in humans. Adverse reproductive effects and chromosome damage may also occur from EtO exposure.

a. Reporting signs and symptoms: You should inform your employer if you develop any signs or symptoms and suspect that they are caused by exposure to EtO.

III. Emergency First Aid Procedures

A. Eye exposure: If EtO gets into your eyes, wash your eyes immediately with large amounts of water, lifting the lower and upper eyelids. Get medical attention immediately. Contact lenses should not be worn when working with this chemical.

B. Skin exposure: If EtO gets on your skin, immediately wash the contaminated skin with water. If EtO soaks through your clothing, especially your shoes, remove the clothing immediately and wash the skin with water using an emergency deluge shower. Get medical attention immediately. Thoroughly wash contaminated clothing before reusing. Contaminated leather shoes or other leather articles should not be reused and should be discarded.

C. Inhalation: If large amounts of EtO are inhaled, the exposed person must be moved to fresh air at once. If breathing has stopped, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Keep the affected person warm and at rest. Get medical attention immediately.

D. Swallowing: When EtO has been swallowed, give the person large quantities of water immediately. After the water has been swallowed, try to get the person to vomit by having him or her touch the back of the throat with his or her finger. Do not make an unconscious person vomit. Get medical attention immediately.

E. Rescue: Move the affected person from the hazardous exposure. If the exposed person has been overcome, attempt rescue only after notifying at least one other person of the emergency and putting into effect established emergency procedures. Do not become a casualty yourself. Understand your emergency rescue procedures and know the location of the emergency equipment before the need arises.

IV. Respirators and Protective Clothing

A. Respirators: You may be required to wear a respirator for nonroutine activities, in emergencies, while your employer is in the process of reducing EtO exposures through engineering controls, and where engineering controls are not feasible. As of the effective date of the standard, only air-supplied positive-pressure, full-facepiece respirators are approved for protection against EtO. If air-purifying respirators are worn in the future, they must have a label issued by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) under the provisions of 42 CFR part 84 stating that the respirators have been approved for use with ethylene oxide. For effective protection, respirators must fit your face and head snugly. Respirators should not be loosened or removed in work situations where their use is required.

EtO does not have a detectable odor except at levels well above the permissible exposure limits. If you can smell EtO while wearing a respirator, proceed immediately to fresh air. If you experience difficulty breathing while wearing a respirator, tell your employer.

B. Protective clothing: You may be required to wear impermeable clothing, gloves, a face shield, or other appropriate protective clothing to prevent skin contact with liquid EtO or EtO-containing solutions. Where protective clothing is required, your employer must provide clean garments to you as necessary to assure that the clothing protects you adequately.

Replace or repair protective clothing that has become torn or otherwise damaged.

EtO must never be allowed to remain on the skin. Clothing and shoes which are not impermeable to EtO should not be allowed to become contaminated with EtO, and if they do, the clothing should be promptly removed and decontaminated. Contaminated leather shoes should be discarded. Once EtO penetrates shoes or other leather articles, they should not be worn again.

C. Eye protection: You must wear splashproof safety goggles in areas where liquid EtO or EtO-containing solutions may contact your eyes. In addition, contact lenses should not be worn in areas where eye contact with EtO can occur.

V. Precautions for Safe Use, Handling, and Storage

A. EtO is a flammable liquid, and its vapors can easily form explosive mixtures in air.

B. EtO must be stored in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area, away from heat, sparks, flames, strong oxidizers, alkalines, and acids, strong bases, acetylide-forming metals such as copper, silver, mercury and their alloys.

C. Sources of ignition such as smoking material, open flames and some electrical devices are prohibited wherever EtO is handled, used, or stored in a manner that could create a potential fire or explosion hazard.

D. You should use non-sparking tools when opening or closing metal containers of EtO, and containers must be bonded and grounded in the rare instances in which liquid EtO is poured or transferred.

E. Impermeable clothing wet with liquid EtO or EtO-containing solutions may be easily ignited. If you are wearing impermeable clothing and are splashed with liquid EtO or EtO-containing solution, you should immediately remove the clothing while under an emergency deluge shower.

F. If your skin comes into contact with liquid EtO or EtO-containing solutions, you should immediately remove the EtO using an emergency deluge shower.

G. You should not keep food, beverages, or smoking materials in regulated areas where employee exposures are above the permissible exposure limits.

H. Fire extinguishers and emergency deluge showers for quick drenching should be readily available, and you should know where they are and how to operate them.

I. Ask your supervisor where EtO is used in your work area and for any additional plant safety and health rules.

VI. Access to Information

A. Each year, your employer is required to inform you of the information contained in this standard and appendices for EtO. In addition, your employer must instruct you in the proper work practices for using EtO emergency procedures, and the correct use of protective equipment.

B. Your employer is required to determine whether you are being exposed to EtO. You or your representative has the right to observe employee measurements and to record the results obtained. Your employer is required to inform you of your exposure. If your employer determines that you are being overexposed, he or she is required to inform you of the actions which are being taken to reduce your exposure to within permissible exposure limits.

C. Your employer is required to keep records of your exposures and medical examinations. These exposure records must be kept by the employer for at least thirty (30) years. Medical records must be kept for the period of your employment plus thirty (30) years.

D. Your employer is required to release your exposure and medical records to your physician or designated representative upon your written request.

VII. Sterilant Use of EtO in Hospitals and Health Care Facilities

This section of Appendix A, for informational purposes, sets forth EPA's recommendations for modifications in workplace design and practice in hospitals and health care facilities for which the Environmental Protection Agency has registered EtO for uses as a sterilant or fumigant under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. 136 et seq. These new recommendations, published in the Federal Register by EPA at 49 FR 15268, as modified in today's Register, are intended to help reduce the exposure of hospital and health care workers to EtO to 1 ppm. EPA's recommended workplace design and workplace practice are as follows:

1. Workplace Design

a. Installation of gas line hand valves. Hand valves must be installed on the gas supply line at the connection to the supply cylinders to minimize leakage during cylinder change.

b. Installation of capture boxes. Sterilizer operations result in a gas/water discharge at the completion of the process. This discharge is routinely piped to a floor drain which is generally located in an equipment or an adjacent room. When the floor drain is not in the same room as the sterilizer and workers are not normally present, all that is necessary is that the room be well ventilated.

The installation of a "capture box" will be required for those workplace layouts where the floor drain is located in the same room as the sterilizer or in a room where workers are normally present. A "capture box" is a piece of equipment that totally encloses the floor drain where the discharge from the sterilizer is pumped. The "capture box" is to be vented directly to a non-recirculating or dedicated ventilation system. Sufficient air intake should be allowed at the bottom of the box to handle the volume of air that is ventilated from the top of the box. The "capture box" can be made of metal, plastic, wood or other equivalent material. The box is intended to reduce levels of EtO discharged into the work room atmosphere. The use of a "capture box" is not required if: (1) the vacuum pump discharge floor drain is located in a well ventilated equipment or other room where workers are not normally present or (2) the water sealed vacuum pump discharges directly to a closed sealed sewer line (check local plumbing codes).

If it is impractical to install a vented "capture box" and a well ventilated equipment or other room is not feasible, a box

that can be sealed over the floor drain may be used if: (1) the floor drain is located in a room where workers are not normally present and EtO cannot leak into an occupied area, and (2) the sterilizer in use is less than 12 cubic feet in capacity (check local plumbing codes).

c. Ventilation of Aeration units.

i. Existing aeration units. Existing units must be vented to a non-recirculating or dedicated system or vented to an equipment or other room where workers are not normally present and which is well ventilated. Aerator units must be positioned as close as possible to the sterilizer to minimize the exposure from the off-gassing of sterilized items.

ii. Installation of new aerator units (where none exist). New aerator units must be vented as described above for existing aerators. Aerators must be in place by July 1, 1986.

d. Ventilation during cylinder change. Workers may be exposed to short but relatively high levels of EtO during the change of gas cylinders. To reduce exposure from this route, users must select one of the three alternatives designed to draw off gas that may be released when the line from the sterilizer to the cylinder is disconnected:

i. Location of cylinders in a well ventilated equipment room or other room where workers are not normally present.

ii. Installation of a flexible hose (at least 4" in diameter) to a non-recirculating or dedicated ventilation system and located in the area of cylinder change in such a way that the hose can be positioned at the point where the sterilizer gas line is disconnected from the cylinder.

iii. Installation of a hood that is part of a non-recirculating or dedicated system and positioned no more than one foot above the point where the change of cylinders takes place.

e. Ventilation of sterilizer door area. One of the major sources of exposure to EtO occurs when the sterilizer door is opened following the completion of the sterilization process. In order to reduce this avenue of exposure, a hood or metal canopy closed on each end must be installed over the sterilizer door. The hood or metal canopy must be connected to a non-recirculating or dedicated ventilation system or one that exhausts gases to a well ventilated equipment or other room where workers are not normally present. A hood or canopy over the sterilizer door is required for use even with those sterilizers that have a purge cycle and must be in place by July 1, 1986.

f. Ventilation of sterilizer relief valve. Sterilizers are typically equipped with a safety relief device to release gas in case of increased pressure in the sterilizer. Generally, such relief devices are used on pressure vessels. Although these pressure relief devices are rarely opened for hospital and health care sterilizers, it is suggested that they be designed to exhaust vapor from the sterilizer by one of the following methods:

i. Through a pipe connected to the outlet of the relief valve ventilated directly outdoors at a point high enough to be away from passers by, and not near any windows that open, or near any air conditioning or ventilation air intakes.

ii. Through a connection to an existing or new non-recirculating or dedicated ventilation system.

iii. Through a connection to a well ventilated equipment or other room where workers are not normally present.

g. Ventilation Systems. Each hospital and health care facility affected by this notice that uses EtO for the sterilization of equipment and supplies must have a ventilation system which enables compliance with the requirements of section (b) through (f) in the manner described in these sections and within the timeframes allowed. Thus, each affected hospital and health care facility must have or install a non-recirculating or dedicated ventilation equipment or other room where workers are not normally present in which to vent EtO.

h. Installation of alarm systems. An audible and visual indicator alarm system must be installed to alert personnel of ventilation system failures, i.e., when the ventilation fan motor is not working.

2. Workplace Practices.

All the workplace practices discussed in this unit must be permanently posted near the door of each sterilizer prior to use by any operator.

a. Changing of supply line filters. Filters in the sterilizer liquid line must be changed when necessary, by the following procedure:

- i. Close the cylinder valve and the hose valve.
- ii. Disconnect the cylinder hose (piping) from the cylinder.
- iii. Open the hose valve and bleed slowly into a proper ventilating system at or near the in—use supply cylinders.
- iv. Vacate the area until the line is empty.
- v. Change the filter.
- vi. Reconnect the lines and reverse the valve position.
- vii. Check hoses, filters, and valves for leaks with a fluorocarbon leak detector (for those sterilizers using the 88 percent chlorofluorocarbon, 12 percent ethylene oxide mixture [12/88]).

b. Restricted access area.

i. Areas involving use of EtO must be designated as restricted access areas. They must be identified with signs or floor marks near the sterilizer door, aerator, vacuum pump floor drain discharge, and in-use cylinder storage.

ii. All personnel must be excluded from the restricted area when certain operations are in progress, such as discharging a vacuum pump, emptying a sterilizer liquid line, or venting a non-purge sterilizer with the door ajar or other operations where EtO might be released directly into the face of workers.

c. Door opening procedures.

i. Sterilizers with purge cycles. A load treated in a sterilizer equipped with a purge cycle should be removed immediately upon completion of the cycle (provided no time is lost opening the door after cycle is completed). If this is not done, the purge cycle should be repeated before opening door.

ii. Sterilizers without purge cycles. For a load treated in a sterilizer not equipped with a purge cycle, the sterilizer door must be ajar 6" for 15 minutes, and then fully opened for at least another 15 minutes before removing the treated load. The length of time of the second period should be established by peak monitoring for one hour after the two 15-minute periods suggested. If the level is above 10 ppm time-weighted average for 8 hours, more time should be added to the second waiting period (door wide open). However, in no case may the second period be shortened to less than 15 minutes.

d. Chamber unloading procedures.

i. Procedures for unloading the chamber must include the use of baskets or rolling carts, or baskets and rolling tables to transfer treated loads quickly, thus avoiding excessive contact with treated articles, and reducing the duration of exposures.

ii. If rolling carts are used, they should be pulled not pushed by the sterilizer operators to avoid offgassing exposure.

e. Maintenance. A written log should be instituted and maintained documenting the date of each leak detection and any maintenance procedures undertaken. This is a suggested use practice and is not required.

i. Leak detection. Sterilizer door gaskets, cylinder and vacuum piping, hoses, filters, and valves must be checked for leaks under full pressure with a Fluorocarbon leak detector (for 12/88 systems only) every week by maintenance personnel. Also, the cylinder piping connections must be checked after changing cylinders. Particular attention in leak detection should be given to the automatic solenoid valves that control the flow of EtO to the sterilizer. Specifically, a check should be made at the EtO gasline entrance port to the sterilizer, while the sterilizer door is open and the solenoid valves are in a closed position.

ii. Maintenance procedures. Sterilizer/aerator door gaskets, valves, and fittings must be replaced when necessary as determined by maintenance personnel in their weekly checks; in addition, visual inspection of the door gaskets for cracks, debris, and other foreign substances should be conducted daily by the operator.

Appendix B - Substance Technical Guidelines for Ethylene Oxide

I. Physical and Chemical Data

A. Substance identification:

1. Synonyms: Dihydrooxirene, dimethylene oxide, EO, 1,2-epoxyethane, EtO, ETO, oxacyclopropane, oxane, oxidoethane, alpha/beta-oxidoethane, oxiran, oxirane.

2. Formula: (C₂H₄O).

3. Molecular weight: 44.06

B. Physical data:

1. Boiling point (760 mm Hg): 10.70°C (51.3°F);

2. Specific gravity (water = 1): 0.87 (at 20°C or 68°F)

3. Vapor density (air = 1): 1.49;

4. Vapor pressure (at 20°C): 1,095 mm Hg;

5. Solubility in water: complete;

6. Appearance and odor: colorless liquid; gas at temperature above 10.7°F or 51.3°C with ether-like odor above 700 ppm.

II. Fire, Explosion, and Reactivity Hazard Data

A. Fire:

1. Flash point: less than 0°F (open cup);

2. Stability: decomposes violently at temperatures above 800°F;

3. Flammable limits in air, percent by volume: Lower: 3, Upper: 100;

4. Extinguishing media: Carbon dioxide for small fires, polymer or alcohol foams for large fires;

5. Special fire fighting procedures: Dilution of ethylene oxide with 23 volumes of water renders it non-flammable;

6. Unusual fire and explosion hazards: Vapors of EtO will burn without the presence of air or other oxidizers. EtO vapors are heavier than air and may travel along the ground and be ignited by open flames or sparks at locations remote from the site at which EtO is being used.

7. For purposes of compliance with the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.106 (Michigan Part 75), EtO is classified as a flammable gas. For example, 7,500 ppm, approximately one-fourth of the lower flammable limit, would be considered to pose a potential fire and explosion hazard.

8. For purposes of compliance with 29 CFR 1910.155 (Michigan Parts 8 and 9), EtO is classified as a Class B fire.

9. For purposes of compliance with 29 CFR 1919.307 (Michigan 1910.309 - National Electrical Code), locations classified as hazardous due to the presence of EtO shall be Class I.

B. Reactivity:

1. Conditions contributing to instability: EtO will polymerize violently if contaminated with aqueous alkalies, amines, mineral acids, metal chlorides, or metal oxides. Violent decomposition will also occur at temperatures above 800°F;

2. Incompatibilities: Alkalines and acids;

3. Hazardous decomposition products: Carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

III. Spill, Leak, and Disposal Procedures

A. If EtO is spilled or leaked, the following steps should be taken:

1. Remove all ignition sources.

2. The area should be evacuated at once and re-entered only after the area has been thoroughly ventilated and washed down with water.

B. Persons not wearing appropriate protective equipment must be restricted from areas of spills or leaks until cleanup has been completed.

C. Waste disposal methods: Waste material shall be disposed of in a manner that is not hazardous to employees or to the general population. In selecting the method of waste disposal, applicable local, State, and Federal regulations should be consulted.

IV. Monitoring and Measurement Procedures

A. Exposure above the Permissible Exposure Limit;

1. Eight-hour exposure evaluation: Measurements taken for the purpose of determining employee exposure under this section are best taken with consecutive samples covering the full shift. Air samples must be taken in the employee's breathing zone (air that would most nearly represent that inhaled by the employee.)

2. Monitoring techniques: The sampling and analysis under this section may be performed by collection of the EtO vapor on charcoal adsorption tubes or other composition adsorption tubes, with subsequent chemical analysis. Sampling and analysis may also be performed by instruments such as real-time continuous monitoring systems, portable direct reading instruments, or passive dosimeters as long as measurements taken using these methods accurately evaluate the concentration of EtO in employees' breathing zones.

Appendix D describes the validated method of sampling and analysis which has been tested by OSHA for use with EtO. Other available methods are also described in Appendix D. The employer has the obligation of selecting a monitoring method which meets the accuracy and precision requirements of the standard under his unique field conditions. The standard requires that the method of monitoring must be accurate, to a 95 percent confidence level, to plus or minus 25 percent for concentrations of EtO at 1 ppm, and to plus or minus 35 percent for concentrations at 0.5 ppm. In addition to the method described in Appendix D, there are numerous other methods available for monitoring for EtO in the workplace. Details on these other methods have been submitted by various companies to the rulemaking record, and are available at the OSHA Docket Office.

B. Since many of the duties relating to employee exposure are dependent on the results of measurement procedures, employers must assure that the evaluation of employee exposures is performed by a technically qualified person.

V. Protective Clothing and Equipment

Employees shall be provided with and required to wear appropriate protective clothing wherever there is significant potential for skin contact with liquid EtO or EtO-containing solutions. Protective clothing shall include impermeable coveralls or similar full-body work clothing, gloves, and head coverings, as appropriate to protect areas of the body which may come in contact with liquid EtO or EtO-containing solutions.

Employers must ascertain that the protective garments are impermeable to EtO. Permeable clothing, including items made of rubber, and leather shoes should not be allowed to become contaminated with liquid EtO. If permeable clothing does become contaminated, it should be immediately removed, while the employee is under an emergency deluge shower. If leather footwear or other leather garments become wet from EtO they should be discarded and not worn again, because leather absorbs EtO and holds it against the skin.

Any protective clothing that has been damaged or is otherwise found to be defective should be repaired or replaced. Clean protective clothing should be provided to the employee as necessary to assure employee protection. Whenever impermeable clothing becomes wet with liquid EtO, it should be washed down with water before being removed by the employee. Employees are also required to wear splash-proof safety goggles where there is any possibility of EtO contacting the eyes.

VI. Miscellaneous Precautions

A. Store EtO in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area and take all necessary precautions to avoid any explosion hazard.

B. Non-sparking tools must be used to open and close metal containers. These containers must be effectively grounded and bonded.

C. Do not incinerate EtO cartridges, tanks or other containers.

D. Employers shall advise employees of all areas and operations where exposure to EtO occurs.

VII. Common Operations

Common operations in which exposure to EtO is likely to occur include the following: Manufacture of EtO, surfactants, ethanolamines, glycol, ethers, and specialty chemicals, and use as a sterilant in the hospital, health product and spice industries.

Appendix C - Medical Surveillance Guidelines for Ethylene Oxide

I. Route of Entry

Inhalation.

II. Toxicology

Clinical evidence of adverse effects associated with the exposure to EtO is present in the form of increased incidence of cancer in laboratory animals (leukemia, stomach, brain), mutation in offspring in animals, and resorptions and spontaneous abortions in animals and human populations respectively. Findings in humans and experimental animals exposed to airborne concentrations of EtO also indicate damage to the genetic material (DNA). These include hemoglobin alkylation, unscheduled DNA synthesis, sister chromatid exchange chromosomal aberration, and functional sperm abnormalities.

Ethylene oxide in liquid form can cause eye irritation and injury to the cornea, frostbite, severe irritation, and blistering of the skin upon prolonged or confined contact. Ingestion of EtO can cause gastric irritation and liver injury. Other effects from inhalation of EtO vapors include respiratory irritation and lung injury, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dyspnea and cyanosis.

III. Signs and Symptoms of Acute Overexposure

The early effects of acute overexposure to EtO are nausea and vomiting, headache, and irritation of the eyes and respiratory passages. The patient may notice a "peculiar taste" in the mouth. Delayed effects can include pulmonary edema, drowsiness, weakness, and incoordination. Studies suggest that blood cell changes, an increase in chromosomal aberrations, and spontaneous abortion may also be causally related to acute overexposure to EtO.

Skin contact with liquid or gaseous EtO causes characteristic burns and possibly even an allergic-type sensitization. The edema and erythema occurring from skin contact with EtO progress to vesiculation with a tendency to coalesce into blebs with desquamation. Healing occurs within three weeks, but there may be a residual brown pigmentation. A 40-80% solution is extremely dangerous, causing extensive blistering after only brief contact. Pure liquid EtO causes frostbite because of rapid evaporation. In contrast, the eye is relatively insensitive to EtO, but there may be some irritation of the cornea.

Most reported acute effects of occupational exposure to EtO are due to contact with EtO in liquid phase. The liquid readily penetrates rubber and leather, and will produce blistering if clothing or footwear contaminated with EtO are not removed.

IV. Surveillance and Preventive Considerations

As noted above, exposure to EtO has been linked to an increased risk of cancer and reproductive effects including

decreased male fertility, fetotoxicity, and spontaneous abortion. EtO workers are more likely to have chromosomal damage than similar groups not exposed to EtO. At the present, limited studies of chronic effects in humans resulting from exposure to EtO suggest a causal association with leukemia. Animal studies indicate leukemia and cancers at other sites (brain, stomach) as well. The physician should be aware of the findings of these studies in evaluating the health of employees exposed to EtO.

Adequate screening tests to determine an employee's potential for developing serious chronic diseases, such as cancer, from exposure to EtO do not presently exist. Laboratory tests may, however, give evidence to suggest that an employee is potentially overexposed to EtO. It is important for the physician to become familiar with the operating conditions in which exposure to EtO is likely to occur. The physician also must become familiar with the signs and symptoms that indicate a worker is receiving otherwise unrecognized and unacceptable exposure to EtO. These elements are especially important in evaluating the medical and work histories and in conducting the physical exam. When an unacceptable exposure in an active employee is identified by the physician, measures taken by the employer to lower exposure should also lower the risk of serious long-term consequences.

The employer is required to institute a medical surveillance program for all employees who are or will be exposed to EtO at or above the action level (0.5 ppm) for at least 30 days per year, without regard to respirator use. All examinations and procedures must be performed by or under the supervision of a licensed physician at a reasonable time and place for the employee and at no cost to the employee.

Although broad latitude in prescribing specific tests to be included in the medical surveillance program is extended to the examining physician, OSHA requires inclusion of the following elements in the routine examination:

- (i) Medical and work histories with special emphasis directed to symptoms related to the pulmonary, hematologic, neurologic, and reproductive systems and to the eyes and skin.
- (ii) Physical examination with particular emphasis given to the pulmonary, hematologic, neurologic, and reproductive systems and to the eyes and skin.
- (iii) Complete blood count to include at least a white cell count (including differential cell count), red cell count, hematocrit, and hemoglobin.
- (iv) Any laboratory or other test which the examining physician deems necessary by sound medical practice.

If requested by the employee, the medical examinations shall include pregnancy testing or laboratory evaluation of fertility as deemed appropriate by the physician.

In certain cases, to provide sound medical advice to the employer and the employee, the physician must evaluate situations not directly related to EtO. For example, employees with skin diseases may be unable to tolerate wearing protective clothing. In addition those with chronic respiratory diseases may not tolerate the wearing of negative pressure (air purifying) respirators. Additional tests and procedures that will help the physician determine which employees are medically unable to wear such respirators should include: An evaluation of cardiovascular function, a baseline chest x-ray to be repeated at five year intervals, and a pulmonary function test to be repeated every three years. The pulmonary function test should include measurement of the employee's forced vital capacity (FVC), forced expiratory volume at one second (FEV1), as well as calculation of the ratios of FEV1 to FVC, and measured FVC and measured FEV1 to expected values corrected for variation due to age, sex, race, and height.

The employer is required to make the prescribed tests available at least annually to employees who are or will be exposed at or above the action level, for 30 or more days per year; more often than specified if recommended by the examining physician; and upon the employee's termination of employment or reassignment to another work area. While little is known about the long term consequences of high short-term exposures, it appears prudent to monitor such affected employees closely in light of existing health data. The employer shall provide physician recommended examinations to any employee exposed to EtO in emergency conditions. Likewise, the employer shall make available medical consultations including physician recommended exams to employees who believe they are suffering signs or symptoms of exposure to EtO.

The employer is required to provide the physician with the following information: a copy of this standard and its appendices; a description of the affected employee's duties as they relate to the employee exposure level; and information from the employee's previous medical examinations which is not readily available to the examining physician. Making this information available to the physician will aid in the evaluation of the employee's health in relation to assigned duties and fitness to wear personal protective equipment, when required.

The employer is required to obtain a written opinion from the examining physician containing the results of the medical examinations; the physician's opinion as to whether the employee has any detected medical conditions which would place the employee at increased risk of material impairment of his or her health from exposure to EtO; any recommended restrictions upon the employee's exposure to EtO, or upon the use of protective clothing or equipment such as respirators; and a statement that the employee has been informed by the physician of the results of the medical examination and of any medical conditions which require further explanation or treatment. This written opinion must not reveal specific findings or diagnoses unrelated to occupational exposure to EtO, and a copy of the opinion must be provided to the affected employee.

The purpose in requiring the examining physician to supply the employer with a written opinion is to provide the employer with a medical basis to aid in the determination of initial placement of employees and to assess the employee's ability to use protective clothing and equipment.

Appendix D - Sampling and Analytical Methods for Ethylene Oxide

A number of methods are available for monitoring employee exposures to EtO. Many of these involve the use of charcoal tubes and sampling pumps, followed by analysis of the samples by gas chromatograph. Differences among the charcoal tube methods include coatings on the charcoal, desorbing solvents, and analytical equipment.

Besides these methods, others include passive dosimeters, gas sampling bags, impingers, and detector tubes to determine exposure to EtO. Additionally, there are several commercially available portable gas analyzers and monitoring units.

Two primary sources of validated analytical methods for EtO analysis are Federal OSHA and NIOSH. OSHA publishes their methods in the OSHA Analytical Methods Manual, which is available from the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists Inc. (ACGIH) at (513) 661-7881. A single copy of an individual method may be obtained from the OSHA Salt Lake City Analytical Laboratory (SLCAL) at (801) 524-5287. NIOSH methods are compiled in the NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods. For NIOSH publications, call (513) 841-4287. A summary of methods included in the two manuals are in Table 2.

If employers note problems with sample breakthrough using charcoal methods, they should try larger charcoal tubes, lower flow rates, or shorter sampling times. Whatever method chosen,

the employer is responsible for validating the method's accuracy and precision under the unique conditions present in the workplace.

TABLE 2—FEDERAL OSHA AND NIOSH METHODS FOR ETHYLENE OXIDE ANALYSIS

Analytical Method Matrix:	OSHA 30 Air	OSHA 49 Air	OSHA 50 Air	NIOSH 1614 Air	NIOSH 3702 Air
Rec. Sampling Rate:	0.05 L/min.	Not applicable	0.1 L/min.	0.05 to 0.15 L/min.	>0.02 L/min.
Rec. Air Volume:	1 Liter	Not applicable	24 liters	1 to 24 Liters	Not applicable
Sample Medium:	100/50 mg charcoal tubes—two in series	3M Ethylene Oxide Monitor #3551	100/50 mg charcoal tube coated with HBr	100/50 mg charcoal tube coated with HBr	Ambient air or bag sample
Desorbing Solvent:	99:1 benzene: CS ₂	Tetrahydrofuran (THF)	Dimethylformamide (DMF)	Dimethylformamide (DMF)	Not applicable
Procedure Notes:	Desorbed sample is derivatized with HBr and treated with sodium carbonate	Desorbed sample is derivatized with heptafluorobutyric acid anhydride	Desorbed sample is derivatized with heptafluorobutyrylimidazole (HFBI)	Desorbed sample is derivatized with heptafluorobutyrylimidazole (HFBI)	Bag samples can be used for TWA or directly inject air sample into GC
Analysis:	Gas chromatograph w/electron capture detector	Gas chromatograph w/electron capture detector	Gas chromatograph w/electron capture detector	Gas chromatograph w/electron capture detector	Portable gas chromatograph with photoionization detector
Estimated Limit of Detection:	13.3 ppb (24 ug/m ³) based on 1.0 liter	0.2 ppb (0.3 mg/m ³) based on 8 hr. exposure	0.8 ppb (1.4 ug/m ³) based on 24 liters	23 ppb (42 ug/m ³) based on 24 liters	1 ppb (1.8 ug/m ³) based on 1 mL injection